

## **Study Guide for Unit 6 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> part): The First Civilizations:** **Egypt**

- Lesson 3. Egypt.
  - Lesson 3.1. Egypt and the Nile
  - Lesson 3.2. Egypt's Political Evolution
  - Lesson 3.3. Egypt's Political Organization
  - Lesson 3.4. Egyptian Society
  - Lesson 3.5. Egyptian Religion: Gods and the Afterlife
  - Lesson 3.6. Egyptian Art: Architecture, Painting, Sculpture
  - Lesson 3.7. Egyptian Culture

---

**Key Idea:** Around the year 6000 some Neolithic villages became cities as a result of agricultural and commercial prosperity. This prosperity was fostered by the invention of writing and brought an increasing complexity to political organization with the foundation of the first empires, social division based on the peoples' functions, the religious beliefs, and culture and the art.

---

These are the OBJECTIVES that you are responsible to master by the end of the unit:

### **Lesson 3.1. Egypt and the Nile**

1. Understand the importance of River Nile in the development and strengthening of Egyptian civilization.
2. Describe the things the Nile provided: fertility to the land, transportation and communication, and geographical and administrative organization.

3. On a map locate the two regions in which Egypt was divided: Upper Egypt (south) and Lower Egypt (north).

### **Lesson 3.2. Egypt's Political Evolution**

1. Explain briefly Egypt's political evolution: independent city-states; Old Kingdom; 1<sup>st</sup> Intermediate Period; Middle Kingdom; 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Kingdom; New Kingdom; Foreign Rule.
2. Identify King Menes as the leader who unified the Lower and the Upper Egypt creating an Empire.

### **Lesson 3.3. Egypt's Political Organization**

1. Identify the pharaoh as the highest authority of Egypt and describe their powers: executive, legislative, judicial, military and religious power.
2. Understand the combination of political ideas and religious beliefs in the government of Egypt.
3. Describe Egypt's administration, identifying the functions of governors, civil servants and scribes.
4. Understand the importance of writing and scribes as a means to control the territory and its inhabitants.

### **Lesson 3.4. Egyptian Society**

1. Describe how society was organized in Egypt, distinguishing among privileged and non-privileged groups.
2. Identify privileged groups, their functions and privileges.
3. Identify the non-privileged groups.
4. Understand the position of slaves, their origin and lack of rights.
5. Describe the social position of Egyptian women, their rights and functions.

### **Lesson 3.5. Egyptian Religion: Gods and the Afterlife**

1. Understand that Egyptian religion was developed to preserve the order of the universe and give the population a set of beliefs that convinced them of their position in the social and political order.
2. Describe Egyptian religion as a polytheistic religion and name its most important gods.
3. Reflect about the importance of the afterlife for Egyptians and describe the process of mummification and burial.

### **Lesson 3.6. Egyptian Art: Architecture, Painting and Sculpture**

1. Understand the purposes of Egyptian art (religious, political, decorative) and its use as a mean to strengthened Egyptians political and religious beliefs and control the population.
2. Reflect about artists being anonymous.
3. Analyze Egyptian architecture: rules, materials, supporting structures, supported structures, types of buildings...
4. Describe the structure and characteristics of Egyptian temples and tombs.
5. Identify Egyptian architecture through images.
6. Analyze Egyptian painting: rules, materials, perspective, colours, themes, movement...
7. Identify Egyptian painting through images.
8. Analyze Egyptian sculpture: rules, materials, perspective, themes, movement...
9. Identify Egyptian sculpture through images.

### **Lesson 3.7. Egyptian Culture**

1. Understand the importance of writing for the development of Egypt.
2. Identify hieroglyphs as the Egyptian writing
3. Reflect about the importance of scribes.
4. Understand the importance of the Rosetta Stone as a primary source that was essential for deciphering hieroglyphs.

These are the ASSIGNMENTS or tasks you have to complete to accomplish the objectives:

1. Select and research about one the masterpieces of Mesopotamian art (sculpture). Your research should include:
  - a. The name of the masterpiece
  - b. The author
  - c. Who order it or paid for it
  - d. Place in which it was made or created
  - e. Date in which it was created
  - f. Place in which we can currently see it
  - g. Describe the piece:
    - i. Material
    - ii. Theme
    - iii. Technique
    - iv. Elements or symbols on it
    - v. Purpose and message

Create a document including the data you have found and some pictures of the masterpiece.

### Activity Sheet 1: Egypt

Name:

Corrected by:

1. The First ..... Civilizations developed along ..... rivers surrounded by fertile land:
  - a. Mesopotamia: ..... rivers
  - b. Egypt: ..... river
  - c. India: ..... river
  - d. China: ..... and ..... rivers
2. The Egyptian civilization developed .....years ago. Its prosperity was possible thanks to the ..... river.
3. The river provided:
  - a. Fertility to the land, the invention of writing and a way of transportation and communication.
  - b. A way of communication, a geographical and administrative way to organize the kingdom, fertility to the land.
  - c. Fertility to the land, a way of transportation and a lot of population.
4. Choose the best definition:
  - a. Egyptian agriculture became prosperous because they learn how to irrigate the land.
  - b. Egyptian agriculture developed thanks to river Nile's flood which fertilized the land and the construction of dams and canals to carry water and irrigate crops.
  - c. Egyptian agriculture developed thanks to the exchange of products that took place along the Nile river.
5. Egypt was divided in:
  - a. .... Egypt: in the south
  - b. .... Egypt: in the north

6. Organize in chronological order the political development of Egypt:

Foreign Rule, Independent city-states, Old Kingdom, , Middle Kingdom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Kingdom, Neolithic villages, New Kingdom, 1<sup>st</sup> Intermediate Period  
Neolithic villages, Independent city-states, Old Kingdom, 1<sup>st</sup> Intermediate Period, Middle Kingdom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Kingdom, New Kingdom, Foreign Ruled

7. Egyptian pharaoh's had ..... power. So he decided everything.

8. The pharaoh's power included: (choose the most accurate answer)

- a. The control of religion, the army, making laws, organizing and controlling the country.
- b. Leading the army, organizing the kingdom, deciding peace and war and ruling the country.

9. Relate the concept with its definition:

Religious power; executive power; legislative and judicial power; military power.

- a. Ruling the country, owning the land and controlling trade.
- b. Leading the army and deciding peace and war.
- c. Worshipped as a god, controlled the priest.
- d. Passing laws and being a judge.

10. Who helped the pharaohs in government:

- a. Civil servants and scribes
- b. Scribes and priests
- c. Civil servants and priests
- d. Civil servants, scribes and soldiers

11. Egyptian society was divided in:

- a. .... groups formed by ....., ..... AND .....

- b. .... groups formed by ....., .....,  
....., .....

12. Choose the characteristics of Egyptian slaves:

- a. They had few rights
- b. They were black people that had been captured and did not know how to read and write.
- c. They had no rights at all.
- d. They were their master's property
- e. They had been captured in war or had become slaves because of debts

13. Choose the characteristics of scribes:

- a. They were priests
- b. They knew how to read and write
- c. They controlled religion
- d. They controlled taxes
- e. They controlled economy and trade
- f. They worked for the pharaoh
- g. They worked for the temple
- h. They did not know how to read or write
- i. They were a non-privileged group
- j. They were a privileged group

14. Choose the correct definition:

- a. Egyptian women did not have rights, they depended on their husbands to own property, inherit and get divorced.
- b. Egyptian women had rights as they could have their own things, the inherited properties and could get divorced.

15. Choose the right answer and justify your choice:

- a. Egyptian women could not occupy political positions
- b. Egyptian women could occupy political positions

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

16. Choose the characteristics of Egyptian religion:

- a. They were monotheistic as they believed in only one God: Ra that represented the sun and had different saints as Osiris, Seth, Horus...
- b. They believed in different gods as they were polytheistic.
- c. The temple was the house of god
- d. Only the priest and the pharaoh could see the god
- e. Everybody could go to the temple, visit the god and worship him/her
- f. Egyptians believed in eternal life
- g. Egyptians believed in reincarnation

17. Choose the correct answer:

- a. To come to life again in the afterlife you needed to be mummified and passed the Judgement of Osiris.
- b. To come to life again in the afterlife you needed to be buried in a tomb and pass the Judgement of Osiris.

18. Write the 3 purposes of Egyptian art:

19. Egyptian artists were anonymous. (Say if this sentence is true or false and justify your answer).

---

---

---

---

---

20. Select the characteristics of Egyptian art:

- a. Every artist follow his own rules



- b. The used lintels and arches to cover the buildings.
- c. It followed strict rules that were always the same.
- d. Buildings were not very big as they wanted to represent normal life.

21. Choose the characteristics that correspond to Egyptian temples:

- a. Gods were worshipped there and people was buried under the temple.
- b. Regular people could only enter as far as the patio while nobles and civil servants could enter in the hypostyle hall.
- c. Only priests and pharaoh's could communicate directly with god in the sanctuary.
- d. People entered the sanctuary with offerings to ask for favours and worship the gods.

22. Draw a mastaba, a pyramid and a hypogeum and tag them:

23. Select the characteristics that correspond to Egyptian sculpture and painting:

- a. Every artist followed his own rules.
- b. Artists were anonymous.
- c. Paintings showed real people with their real features.
- d. The rules were strict and had to be followed by everybody.
- e. Images were idealized.
- f. Egyptians created sculptures but did not do engravings.
- g. Images were portraits of real people and showed their real features (wrinkles, spots, freckles...).
- h. Images represent young and old people as well.